

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An animal-derived or plant-derived tissue section-containing carrier for seeding and culturing animal cells, comprising a tissue section having a thickness of 0.5 to 50 μm , which is adhered to a support and rinsed with a culture medium and comprises the culture medium, wherein the tissue is prepared from a fresh tissue or a tissue previously fixed by use of a fixing reagent, and the tissue sections were obtained from frozen tissue, paraffin-embedded tissue, or resin-embedded tissue.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The animal or plant derived tissue section-containing carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support is at least one selected from glass, plastics, rubber, metal, natural or synthetic thread and/or its woven matters, and biodegradable materials.

4. (Previously presented) The animal or plant-derived tissue section-containing carrier as claimed in claim 1 or 3, wherein the support is previously processed for promoting the section adhesion thereto or for promoting the section adhesion thereto under stretch.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The animal or plant-derived tissue section-containing carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tissue is processed for acellularization before or after it has been sectioned.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The animal or plant-derived tissue section-containing carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tissue section is biologically treated with an enzyme or chemically treated with acid, alkali, or surfactant to thereby change or modify the constituent components and/or the microstructure of the tissue section.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The animal or plant-derived tissue section-containing carrier as claimed in claim 1, which tissue is derived from mammals.

12. (Previously presented) The animal or plant-derived tissue section-containing carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tissue is obtained from an unborn animal living in its mother.

13. (Previously presented) The animal or plant-derived tissue section-containing carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tissue is obtained from a born animal.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of cell culture, which comprises fitting the cell culture carrier of any of claims 1 to 13 in a culture vessel, and culturing animal cells therein.

15. (Withdrawn) The cell culture method as claimed in claim 14, wherein animal cell suspensions, tissue explants, blastocysts, or three-dimensionally reconstructed multicellular aggregates are seeded on the carrier to start the culture of the animal cells thereon.

16. (Withdrawn) The cell culture method as claimed in claim 14 or 15, wherein the animal cells seeded on the carrier, adhere proliferate, and subsequently peel the section or the section-derived tissue with the proliferated cells from the support of any of claims 2 to 4.

17. (Withdrawn) The cell culture method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the section or the section-derived tissue with the proliferated cells is, after peeled from the support, further cultured to thereby form three-dimensional multicellular aggregates that have involved the section or the section-derived tissue therein.

18. (Withdrawn) The cell culture method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the animal cells to be cultured are of one or more types selected from primary culture cells, cells of established cell lines, blastocysts and/or those cells with an exogenous gene introduced thereinto.

19. (Withdrawn) The cell culture method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the animal cells to be cultured are derived from any of undifferentiated stem cells, cells under differentiation, terminally differentiated cells and/or dedifferentiated cells.

20. (Withdrawn) The cell culture method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the undifferentiated stem cells are especially embryonic stem cells.

21. (Withdrawn) The cell culture method as claimed in any of claims 14 to 20, wherein the culture medium for culturing the animal cells therein is a serum-containing culture medium or a serum-free culture medium not containing serum.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for transplanting the animal cells having been cultured according to the cell culture method of any of claims 14 to 21, into animals.

23. (Withdrawn) The cell transplantation method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the animals into which the cultured cells are transplanted are mammals.

24. (Previously presented) The animal-derived or plant derived tissue-section containing carrier as claimed in claim 1, further comprising animal cells which are cultured and growing on the tissue section.

25. (Previously presented) The animal-derived or plant derived tissue-section containing carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tissue section does not require further treatment for the growth or culture of animal cells thereon.